

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
DATED MARCH 29, 2005

Appln. No. 09/998,880

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached replacement formal drawing sheets include 6 sheets of drawings comprising Figures 1-7.

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REMARKS

This is in response to the final Office Action dated March 29, 2005. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Submission of Formal Drawings for Review

Applicant submits herewith formal drawings, sheets 1-6 comprising Figures 1-7, for review and approval by the Examiner.

Acknowledgment of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are pending in the application. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, that Claims 10-12 and 14-16 are free of the prior art, and assumes that if the claim rejections regarding enablement and indefiniteness are overcome, these claims will be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of their base claims and any intervening claims upon which they depend.

Summary of Claim Rejections As to Enablement and Indefiniteness

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejections as to enablement and indefiniteness under 35 USC 112.

Summary of Claim Rejections As to Anticipation and Obviousness

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 18 and 19 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,718,159 to Thompson. Claims 1-3 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,891,191 to Stinson. Claims 4 and 17 are rejected as obvious over Thompson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,534,084 to Vyakarnam et al. Claims 5-9, 18 and 19 are rejected as obvious over

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Stinson in view of Thompson. Claims 4 and 17 are also rejected as obvious over Stinson in view of Vyakarnam et al.

Summary of Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejections on the basis of 35 USC 112. Claims 2 and 10 have been canceled, and their subject matter has been incorporated into Claim 1. Applicant contends that, consistent with the Examiner's remarks, Claim 1, thus amended, is allowable over the cited references. Minor amendments have been made to various other claims to correct their dependency or eliminate any potential for indefiniteness.

Cancellation of Withdrawn Claims

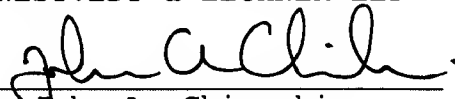
Applicant has canceled Claims 20 and 21 without prejudice consistent with his election in the reply filed July 19, 2004 in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement.

Summary

Applicant contends that the claim amendments as provided herein place the application in condition for allowance, and requests that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

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